

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **28 August 2006**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-8. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for nonstatutory subject matter. Claims 1-8 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 20-27 of copending Application No. 10/641,845.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the element of determining a solution to a set of constraints “associated with a circuit design” (page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 4 of the instant application), and “displaying the value to a circuit designer to facilitate implementing the circuit design” (page 91, lines 22 to 25 of the instant application), thus setting forth a practical application.

Applicant has amended independent claim 6 to include the element of generating a graph data structure representation “for a set of constraints associated with a circuit design” (page 5, line 27 to page 6, line 4 of the instant application), and “displaying the first range of values to a circuit designer to facilitate implementing the circuit design” (page 91, lines 22 to 25 of the instant application), thus setting forth a practical application.

Applicant contends that independent claim 7 is directed to statutory subject matter because claim 7 includes the element of “a computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein”.

Applicant has amended independent claim 8 to include the “computer-readable storage medium.” Support for this amendment can be found on page 92, lines 3-5, of the instant application.

Claims 1-8 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 double patenting rejection as claiming the same invention as that of claims 20-27 of co-

pending Application No. 10/641,845. Applicant submitted a preliminary amendment on 22 December 2006 cancelling claims 20-27 of co-pending Application No. 10/641,845.

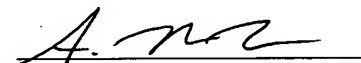
Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 6, 7, and 8 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-5, which depend upon claim 1 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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